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Newman Center procession: A witness to Catholic faith

Riley Durkin

Coming from the point of view of a freshman at North Dakota State University in Fargo, college is an excellent time to further your education and mold yourself into the person you want to be for the rest of your life.

Classes and being on your own for the first time force undergrads to grow both mentally and emotionally, but a student must choose to grow spiritually. That is why all the programs St. Paul's Newman Center offers (known as bisonCatholic) have such a large impact.

On Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Newman Center's Catholic Daughters club organized an event unlike anything that I ever expected to see on campus. After the Mass was celebrated with several priests from across the diocese, the entire congregation followed Father James Cheney, pastor at St. Paul's Newman Center, in a eucharistic procession across campus while praying the rosary. This was an incredible testimony to the students and faculty we encountered.

Some would look curiously out their windows, some would avoid looking all together, but everyone stopped. The procession paused at the Memorial Union where the campus was dedicated to Jesus through Our Lady.

After the blessing, we continued our procession back to the Newman Center, where we had a nice dinner and heard a talk about Our Lady and the rosary. Something that is this holy cannot help but impact all the students, staff and faculty on campus, whether they recognize it or not.

I certainly believe that this is a most important tradition for NDSU. The procession gives us an excellent opportunity to do something far too uncommon in this day and age: be a witness to the faith.

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